Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations on pension

1094. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of Fourth Pay Commission regarding pensioners;

(b) whether the Government of India has taken any decision regarding these recommendations; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, by when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c) The main recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission comprise—

(i) rationalisation of pension structure;

(ii) replacement of slab formula by 50% in calculation of pension; and

(iii) a dearness relief system in-line with that recommended for serving persons.

The report of the Commission is under consideration and Government decisions are expected to be announced shortly. In the meantime Government has decided to raise the minimum pension and minimum family pension to Rs. 375/- per month as against Rs. 300/- recommended by the Commission.

Main items of smuggling in the country

1095. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the first five main items which have been identified as sensitive to smuggling in order of priority;

(b) what is the value of its seizures in last three years, year-wise and sector-wise; and

(c) what steps Government of India propose to take in order to check this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) On the basis of reports received by the Government and seizures made, the following items have been identified as main items sensitive to smuggling:—

1. Gold;
2. Narcotic drugs;
3. Electronic goods;
4. Synthetic fabrics; and
5. Watches.

(b) The total value of main items of contraband goods seized, commodity-wise, throughout the country, bulk of which were seized from the West/East Coast, Land border and International Airports during the years 1984-1985 and 1986 is given below:—

(Value Rs. in crores)

Year	Gold	Watches	Synthetic fabrics	Electronic goods	Narcotic drugs
1984	10.24	11·10	18·39	18·74	5·92
1985	51·89	8·79	16·48	14·75	23·32
1986	46·71	10·11	14·80	17·82	5053

(c) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs Department remain vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling activities. Close co-ordination is maintained with the concerned Central and State enforcement agencies for taking appropriate remedial measures.

Stringent action is taken both departmentally as well as through prosecutions in a Court of Law against those involved in the smuggling activities. Apart from confiscation of the contraband goods and imposition of personal penalty, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in suitable cases.

Morning and late night telecast

1096. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start morning telecast and late night telecast on Doordarshan shortly; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the date from which these telecasts are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Doordarshan have already started morning transmission with effect from 23.2.87 for a duration of 45 minutes i.e. from 7.30 a.m. to 8.15 a.m. The morning transmission consists of Vande Matram, Morning Raga, Visual Presentation of Physical Exercises, Current Affairs Programmes, Songs and news bulletins in Hindi and English. It is also envisaged to extend transmission time by showing programmes such as feature films, twice a week, around 11.30 p.m. The exact duration of this extension would depend on the length of the feature film so telecast.

Pre-emptive purchase of urban properties

1097. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have made pre-emptive purchase of urban properties;

(b) if so, what are the details of the property purchased and what is the amount involved;

(c) what are the particulars of property owners; and

(d) what are the reasons for making pre-emptive purchase by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 38]

(d) Pre-emptive purchase is being made with the object of inducing the transferors and the transferees to declare the full amount of consideration for transfer.

Bonds issued by public sector

1098. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bonds issued by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and National Thermal Power Corporation had received a poor public response;

(b) if so, whether the nationalised banks subscribed them so heavily; and